

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request consideration of the subject application.

This Response is submitted in response to the Office Action mailed April 17, 2007. Claims 1-25 are pending. Claims 20-25 are withdrawn and claims 1-19 are rejected. In this Amendment, claims 11-12 and 20-25 have been canceled and claims 1, 4 and 13 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

35 U.S.C. § 112 Rejections

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-19 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention.

The Examiner submits that the limitation of the controller controlling the at least pump is not supported by the applicant's disclosure. Applicants disagree. Support for this limitation can be found at paragraph [0023].

Applicants also note that the originally filed claims can also provide support for limitations.

The Examiner submits there is insufficient antecedent basis in claim 13 for "the first opening" and "the second opening." Claim 13 depends from claim 1, which has been amended to provide antecedent basis for the limitations.

Applicants, accordingly, respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112.

35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejections

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-7 and 10-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Morita, et al., (U.S Patent No.: 5,431,086, hereinafter “Morita ‘086”) in view of Kajita, et al. (U.S Patent No.: 5,152,143, hereinafter “Kajita”), claims 8-9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Morita ‘086, in view of Kajita as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Bitar, et al. (U.S Patent No.: 5,491,422, hereinafter “Bitar”) and Bussan, et al. (U.S Patent No.: 4,901,625, hereinafter “Bussan”), claims 15-19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Morita, et al. (U.S Patent No.: 6,159,291, hereinafter “Morita ‘291”) or Akimoto, et al. (U.S Patent No.: 5,938,847, hereinafter “Akimoto”) in view of Morita ‘086 and Kajita.

Claims 1-10 and 13-14

Claim 1 has been amended to include subject matter which the Examiner indicated to be allowable.

Claims 15-19

The Examiner submits that it would be obvious to combine Morita '291 or Akimoto with Morita '086 and Kajita. Applicants disagree.

As explained in the Discussion of Related Art at paragraphs [0002] – [0004] of the present application, the vertical movement of the dispense heads in semiconductor wafer processing systems was accomplished with one-speed pneumatic actuators in the prior art. One exemplary disadvantage of this one-speed actuator was that various solutions could leak or drip onto the wafers or other components at unwanted times, leading to, for example, reduced yields of operable integrated circuits and increased maintenance costs of the wafer processing systems.

Morita '291 does not acknowledge any problem with one-speed actuators. Instead Morita '291 describes that a problem with conventional resist coating apparatus includes the standby space laterally of a substrate treating region enclosed by the scatter preventive cup 2. In the standby space, the holder arms are arranged in horizontal posture and extend in the same direction, resulting in a large area that is essentially standby space. In order to solve this problem, Morita '291 proposes a device for reducing the size of a holder arm standby space by providing a holder arm that can change from a substantially upstanding posture to a substantially lying posture.

However, one of skill in the art looking at Morita '291 would not look to Morita '086 and Kajita based on the disclosure of Morita '291 to arrive at the presently claimed invention. One of skill in the art would not combine a system that proposes moving an arm from an upstanding position to a lying position to arrive at the presently claimed invention which involves motion in one direction at two different speeds.

Similarly, Akimoto relates to a resist coating system. Akimoto discloses that filters of conventional systems often fail to filter out particles after time, requiring replacement of the filter. In order to know whether the filter needs to be replaced, a particle counter is used to count particles in the filter. However, this process requires significant time and costs and is not particularly accurate. As a result, Akimoto proposes applying coating liquids at two positions and detecting impurities at the second position.

However, one of skill in the art looking at Akimoto would not look to Morita '086 and Kajita based on the disclosure of Akimoto to arrive at the presently claimed invention. One of skill in the art would not combine a system that proposes determining whether a filter needs to be replaced to arrive at the presently claimed invention which involves motion in one direction at two different speeds.

Moreover, Applicants submit one of skill in the art would not combine Morita '086 with Kajita. Morita '086 is directed to a system that regulates the speed of a piston that involves linear movements. In contrast, Kajita relates to a hydraulic drive system for a construction machine involving rotational motion. One of skill in the art would not combine a hydraulic/pneumatic system relating to linear motion with a hydraulic/pneumatic system relating to rotational motion. The operation of a hydraulic/pneumatic system relating to linear motion is fundamentally different than the operation of a hydraulic/pneumatic system relating to rotational motion.

Thus, the cited art fails to teach or suggest all of the limitations of independent claims 1 and 15. Claims 2-10, 13-14 and 16-19 depend, directly or indirectly, from one of the foregoing independent claims. Applicants, accordingly, respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner indicated that claims 12-13 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112 Rejection, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any

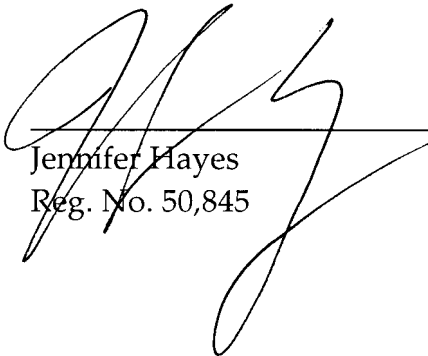
intervening claims. Applicants have amended claim 1 with the limitations of claim 12, and has cancelled claims 11-12. Applicants submit that claim 1 is now in a condition for allowance.

Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite or assist in the allowance of the present application, the Examiner is invited to call Jennifer Hayes at (408) 720-8300.

Please charge any shortages and credit any overages to Deposit Account No. 02-2666. Any necessary extension of time for response not already requested is hereby requested. Please charge any corresponding fee to Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,
Blakely, Sokoloff, Taylor & Zafman LLP

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